

**STATEMENT BY FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY  
PRESIDENT ERIC J. BARRON  
RE: KOCH FOUNDATION GIFT**

Recent stories in the news media have made a number of claims about Florida State University's relationship with a prominent philanthropic organization that are far off the mark. I welcome this opportunity to set the record straight because I fervently believe Florida State University did not — and would not — sacrifice its academic freedom in order to receive a donation of any kind.

In 2008, the Charles G. Koch Charitable Foundation pledged \$1.5 million to establish a program for the Study of Political Economy and Free Enterprise and a Program for Excellence in Economic Education in FSU's Department of Economics. Part of the gift allows for the hiring of two assistant professors to staff the program.

The news stories raise questions about the hiring process. To be crystal clear: The Economics Department Executive Committee screens the candidates, interviews them and has the final vote. The Koch Foundation does not hire faculty, nor does it exercise control over course curricula.

Florida State is diligent and resolute in maintaining its academic integrity. Donor gifts, regardless of their size, have always been accepted with the clear understanding that the gift will not compromise that integrity or infringe on the academic freedom of our highly regarded faculty.